

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK

ASSET TRANSFER REVIEW

Review Report

January 1, 2011, through January 31, 2012



JOHN CHIANG
California State Controller

August 2014



JOHN CHIANG
California State Controller

August 28, 2014

Sung Hyun, Director of Finance
City of Buena Park/Successor Agency
6650 Beach Boulevard
Buena Park, CA 90622-5009

Dear Mr. Hyun:

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 34167.5, the State Controller's Office (SCO) reviewed all asset transfers made by the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Buena Park (RDA) to the City of Buena Park (City) or any other public agency after January 1, 2011. This statutory provision states, "The Legislature hereby finds that a transfer of assets by a redevelopment agency during the period covered in this section is deemed not to be in furtherance of the Community Redevelopment Law and is thereby unauthorized." Therefore, our review included an assessment of whether each asset transfer was allowable and whether the asset should be turned over to the Successor Agency.

Our review applied to all assets including, but not limited to, real and personal property, cash funds, accounts receivable, deeds of trust and mortgages, contract rights, and rights to payment of any kind. We also reviewed and determined whether any unallowable transfers of assets to the City or any other public agencies have been reversed.

Our review found that the RDA transferred \$151,085,829 in assets after January 1, 2011, including unallowable transfers to the City totaling \$9,860,594, or 6.53%, of transferred assets. However, on April 4, 2013, the City remitted \$9,860,594 in cash to the Orange County Auditor-Controller to be distributed to the taxing entities. Therefore, no further action is necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth González, Chief, Local Government Compliance Bureau, by telephone at (916) 324-0622.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

JEFFREY V. BROWNFIELD, CPA
Chief, Division of Audits

JVB/mh

cc: Jan Grimes, Auditor-Controller
Orange County
Steve Berry, Chair
Buena Park Oversight Board
David Botelho, Program Budget Manager
California Department of Finance
Richard J. Chivaro, Chief Legal Counsel
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Contents

Review Report

Summary	1
Background	1
Objective, Scope, and Methodology	2
Conclusion	2
Views of Responsible Officials	2
Restricted Use	2
Finding and Order of the Controller	3
Schedule 1—Unallowable RDA Asset Transfers to the City of Buena Park	4

Asset Transfer Review Report

Summary

The State Controller's Office (SCO) reviewed the asset transfers made by the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Buena Park (RDA) after January 1, 2011. Our review included, but was not limited to, real and personal property, cash funds, accounts receivable, deeds of trust and mortgages, contract rights, and rights to payments of any kind from any source.

Our review found that the RDA transferred \$151,085,829 in assets after January 1, 2011, including unallowable transfers to the City of Buena Park (City), totaling \$9,860,594, or 6.53%, of transferred assets. However, on April 4, 2013, the City remitted \$9,860,594 in cash to the Orange County Auditor-Controller to be distributed to the taxing entities. Therefore, no further action is necessary.

Background

In January of 2011, the Governor of the State of California proposed statewide elimination of redevelopment agencies (RDAs) beginning with the fiscal year (FY) 2011-12 State budget. The Governor's proposal was incorporated into Assembly Bill 26 (ABX1 26, Chapter 5, Statutes of 2011, First Extraordinary Session), which was passed by the Legislature, and signed into law by the Governor on June 28, 2011.

ABX1 26 prohibited RDAs from engaging in new business, established mechanisms and timelines for dissolution of the RDAs, and created RDA Successor Agencies to oversee dissolution of the RDAs and redistribution of RDA assets.

A California Supreme Court decision on December 28, 2011 (*California Redevelopment Association et al. v. Matosantos*), upheld ABX1 26 and the Legislature's constitutional authority to dissolve the RDAs.

ABX1 26 was codified in the Health and Safety (H&S) Code beginning with section 34161.

H&S Code section 34167.5 states, in part, ". . .the Controller shall review the activities of redevelopment agencies, to determine whether an asset transfer has occurred after January 1, 2011, between the city or county, or city and county that created a redevelopment agency or any other public agency, and the redevelopment agency."

The SCO has identified asset transfers that occurred after January 1, 2011, between the RDA, the City and/or other public agencies. By law, the SCO is required to order that such assets, except those that already had been committed to a third party prior to June 28, 2011, the effective date of ABX1 26, be turned over to the Successor Agency. In addition, the SCO may file a legal action to ensure compliance with this order.

Objective, Scope, and Methodology

Our review objective was to determine whether asset transfers that occurred after January 1, 2011, and the date upon which the RDA ceased to operate, or January 31, 2012, whichever was earlier, between the city or county, or city and county that created an RDA, or any other public agency, and the RDA, were appropriate.

We performed the following procedures:

- Interviewed Successor Agency personnel to gain an understanding of the Successor Agency operations and procedures.
- Reviewed meeting minutes, resolutions, and ordinances of the Buena Park City Council, the RDA, the Successor Agency, and the Oversight Board.
- Reviewed accounting records relating to the recording of assets.
- Verified the accuracy of the Asset Transfer Assessment Form. This form was sent to all former RDAs to provide a list of all assets transferred between January 1, 2011, and January 31, 2012.
- Reviewed applicable financial reports to verify assets (capital, cash, property, etc.).

Conclusion

Our review found that the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Buena Park transferred \$151,085,829 in assets after January 1, 2011, including unallowable transfers to the City of Buena Park (City) totaling \$9,860,594, or 6.53% of transferred assets. However, on April 4, 2013, the City remitted \$9,860,594 in cash to the Orange County Auditor-Controller to be distributed to the taxing entities. Therefore, no further action is necessary.

Details of our finding are described in the Finding and Order of the Controller section of this report.

Views of Responsible Officials

At an exit conference on August 7, 2014, we discussed the review results with Sung Hyun, Director of Finance, who agreed with the review results. Mr. Hyun further agreed that a draft review report was not necessary and that the report could be issued as final.

Restricted Use

This report is solely for the information and use of the City, the Successor Agency, the Oversight Board, and the SCO; it is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. This restriction is not intended to limit distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record when issued final.

Original signed by

JEFFREY V. BROWNFIELD, CPA
Chief, Division of Audits

August 28, 2014

Finding and Order of the Controller

**FINDING—
Unallowable asset
transfers to the
City of Buena Park**

The Redevelopment Agency of the City of Buena Park (RDA) transferred \$9,860,594 in assets to the City of Buena Park (City). The transfers occurred after January 1, 2011, and the assets were not contractually committed to a third party prior to June 28, 2011.

On March 8, 2011, the RDA transferred \$9,860,594 in cash to the City to repay a loan between the RDA and the City.

Pursuant to Health and Safety (H&S) Code section 34167.5, any asset transfers by the RDA to a city, county, city and county, or any other public agency after January 1, 2011 that were not contractually committed to a third party must be turned over to the Successor Agency for disposition in accordance with H&S Code sections 34177(d).

Order of the Controller

Pursuant to H&S Code section 34167.5, the City is ordered to reverse the transfers of assets in the amount of \$9,860,594, and turn over the assets to the Successor Agency. However, on April 4, 2013, \$9,860,594 in cash was remitted to the Orange County Auditor-Controller. Therefore, no further action is necessary.

**Schedule 1—
Unallowable RDA Asset Transfers to
the City of Buena Park
January 1, 2011, through January 31, 2012**

Cash transferred on March 8, 2011 from the RDA to City of Buena Park	\$ 9,860,594
Cash remitted on April 4, 2013, by City to the Orange County Auditor-Controller	<u>(9,860,594)</u>
Total transfers subject to Health and Safety Code section 34167.5	<u>\$ —</u>

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